

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 STR-08 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-03 SS-20 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

FEAE-00 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /206 W

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R 201213Z SEP 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7502

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC

SUBJECT: MTN: TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE GROUP 3 (C)

REF: STATE 201976

1. ON SEPTEMBER 19 A MISSION OFFICER CONVEYED THE US VIEWS ON THE WORK OF THE SECTORS GROUP TO ABBOTT, THE CHIEF OF THE EC COMMISSION'S GATT AFFAIRS DIVISION.

2. ABBOTT SAID THAT SO FAR THIS SUBJECT HAD ONLY BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN THE COMMISSION STAFF. HOWEVER, HE EXPECTED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD SUBMIT TO THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK, FOR ITS REVIEW, A POSITION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE US, ARGUING THAT METHODOLOGY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BEFORE ANY EXAMINATION OF SECTORS BEGAN. TH

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POSITION WAS FOUNDED ON A DISLIKE OF THE SECTORIAL APPROACH, FOR THE DANGER IT POSED OF AROUSING INDUSTRY PRESSURES ("SECTORS" COULD TOO EASILY MEAN "EXCEPTIONS"), AND BECAUSE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE RECIPROCITY IF NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONDUCTED ON A SECTORIAL BASIS.

3. ABBOTT WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HOPED AND EXPECTED THAT BY TAKING THE LINE THAT IT WAS PREMATURE TO GET DOWN TO CASES, ANY DECISION TO TAKE UP INDIVIDUAL SECTORS WOULD BE AVOIDED AT THE OCTOBER SECTORS GROUP MEETING AND THE ISSUE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT TNC MEETING.

4. IT IS, ABBOTT NOTED, THE GENERAL EC VIEW THAT THE EXPORT RESTRICTION PROBLEM CAN PROBABLY BEST BE DEALT WITH ON A SECTOR-BY-SECTOR (OR PRODUCT-BY-PRODUCT) BASIS. HOWEVER, THIS VIEW IS NOT RELEVANT TO THE POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY THE EC ON THE ISSUES CREATED BY THE CANADIAN IDEAS FOR THE WORK OF THE SECTORS GROUP.

5. COMMENT: ABBOTT'S VIEWS ON SECTORS REFLECT THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED EARLIER BY HIS COMMISSION SUPERIORS, NOTABLY HIJZEN, BEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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